

[Sketch-book No. 20

Jan.-Mar. 1846

Pages 1-2 are missing. Text begins on page 3]

Jany 23 }	<p><u>Friday.</u> Morn fair, wind NW, and a fair day.</p> <p>One of the Irish laborers on the rail perished yesterday over come with cold. This is a rare case with a healthy man Generally due exercise keeps up the heat of the body, even in the coldest air. If however the vital functions become exhausted through fatigue, there is danger. Perhaps the last preservation in such cases, is a due supply of whole some food taken in small quantities at short intervals.</p>	3
24	<p><u>Saturday.</u> Morn fair; wind NW. and day clear</p>	
25	<p><u>Sunday</u> Morn fair wind W., the day continued fair</p> <p>Mr Moors, our candidate for the pulpit, returned to this town yesterday to prepare for ordination on next Wednesday.</p>	
26	<p><u>Monday</u> Cloudy morn with snow and NW. wind; the day continued cloudy, but little snow fell</p>	
27	<p><u>Tuesday</u> Fair morn, wind N.E. Day continued fair</p> <p>The steam ship Hibernica arrived at Boston last Friday from Liverpool. which place she left on the 4th instant Probably she brought out instructions to the British minister at Washington. From the extracts from the English papers it appears that a pacific spirit prevails the people, and that war is not sought for by them. If an opposite spirit is kept up here, it will be by our <u>war hawks</u> who regard not the welfare of our country. The claim we have set up to 54°--40' N. Lat., nearly 400 miles north of our boundary east of the rocky mountain, is preposterous, nor have I been able to ascertain on what right it is founded. The territory</p>	

was ceded by Spain to Bonaparte &
by him to us, during Jeffersons admin
istration, and without a defined boundary
on the north.

Jan}
27 }

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Our title then rests on that of Spain, which is derived from the vague claims called the right of discovery: or in other words, a ship ranging along on unknown coast, confers a title though inhabited by natives for time immemorial, But that discovery confers a right to any latitude in the interior, as far on the coast is idle in the extreme. If the country is wholly uninhabited by human beings, the first occupant has the best title, and is not to be disturbed by any afterward; but in this case the title is confined to the tract eventually occupied. And whether we or Great Britain can show the best title is a question hardly worth a decisionary gun powder and bayonets. If the two nations consult their interests an adjutant of their claims may be made, and peace preserved. Mr Polk, it is believed would submit to an amicable adjustment of the dispute were he permitted by his wild constituents; but they tell him to hold on for the "whole country or none" and will he risk his popularity by disappointing them? This I believe is the turning point; and a President who makes this popularity his pole star, can never act independently. Hence we shall always be liable to conflicts with neighboring nations.

28

Wednesday. Morn with broken clouds & SW wind & day the same This day Mr John F Moores ordained our the Unitarian Congregation in this town. He is from Groton in this state, educated at Cambridge University, and studied theology in the divinity school at that place of course has no predilection for the repulsive dogmas of Calvinism.

A Council of Clergymen was present;
and they went through the usual pomp
& ceremonies. Sermon delivered by Rev
J.F. Clark of Boston.

Under the old orthodox practice
it

it was common for the the council to examine the candidate to test the soundness of his faith; and when found dissenting from the five tenants of Calvin & the doctrine of the trinity, he was rejected as non fit. At this time the candidate is admitted, if he be found to possess the literary and scientific requisites, leaving the congregation to judge if his theology. his practice, however, I think, may be too loose. Such an examination should be had as may ensure the council that the candidate has not imbibed the errors of Calvin, which are now dissipating before the light of fair investigation. Besides if the Congregation is to be the sole judges of the theology of the candidate, an atheist if he possess the literary qualifications, may be ordained by a council professing Christianity. If a council is called it seems proper that they should have power to reject the candidate when they find him defective in what they suppose essentials. A council without this power would be an absurdity. A different mode of ordination has recently been introduced. A parish or congregation having ~~having~~ engaged their pulpit instructor meet, reiterate their argument which is asserted to by the candidate, and he is inducted into office without the advice of a council. In a country where there is no established religion in the constitution or laws, this may be an eligible mode, provided the contract is Bona fide and legal. But in general a clergyman who is settled

in a parish, is desirous of a circle of associates around him, with whom he may occasionally exchange his pulpit services.

On the importance of Sunday lectures from the parish pulpit, with a few forms and ceremonies, most men of discriminating minds are agreed; but it is to be regretted that many of these lectures are addressed to the passions more than to the reason of the audience

- Jany 28 tending rather to the promotion of enthusiasm than of moral reformation and elevated reverence of the Deity. A sublime religion is not suited to all, but that which enforces no moral obligation is of little worth.
- 29 Thursday Fair morn, wind NE. and most of the day proved cloudy Our ordination yesterday was as I am informed, numerous attended and the several parts performed with ability. The Unitarian system is now assailed with less violence than formerly, and the people begin to learn that it is not counter to the laws of nature, nor the unadulterated reason of man. His doctrines of hereditary depravity and the trinity, are giving way to a more constant belief. In a country where free enquiry is allowed a rigid adherence to the old orthodox system would have created strong objections to its divine origin in the minds of well informed men. Before it is universally embraced it must be pruned of its conniptions.
- 30 Friday The morn clody, and wind S.W. and air moderate. Sun out a short time, but the day mostly cloudy~
- The anti-cipated War } The probability of a war with Great Britain to settle the undefined boundary of the Oregon territory occasions some conversation among the people, particularly of in the young ~~people~~ of the democratic class, who are charmed with the puerile sham of our militia parades; and they seem to think that not only our defence, but the entire conquest of the British provinces in America would be an easy undertaking and indeed a pleasant sport. Relying on numbers, and what they call a spirit of Liberty among the mi

litia, they suppose them equal to
any task; and that the disciplined
troops of Europe, would give way
before these liberty boys and
dissipate like the fog in a bright sun
When I describe to them the Art of
War as now practiced by the scien
tific nations of Europe they stare

Jan
30

and seem to think me [] 7
ing with fable; and when
I represent our unpreparedness
for war, upon an extended
scale, they think me aiming
at deception.
In this country we see and hear
much of militia parades and show
of baubles; but when I say that
no civilization on earth is
so profoundly ignorant of the real
art of war, as the majority of the peo
ple of this confederation, I assert a truth
That there is a spirit that would
induce some of our volunteer corps to take
the field on the first call under officers
of their own choice, is admitted, but after
one or two months service it would
require double the number of regular
troops to keep them in the field:
the endearing ties of home and con
nections become overpowering, and
they soon find that the military field
is not a science for militia, sport~
The idea that now prevails of carry
ing on a war with detachments of
militia, is idle in the extreme; and
if any thing will cure the deception
such a war would do it effectually.
If we have war with a power
ful nation, we must provide a
standing army of enlisted troops, un
der officers appointed for the service,
who will not be subject to the
dictation of their men, but high
minded gentlemen who will risk
life in the battle field, rather than
their sully a reputation for bravery.
Men of this description may possess
no mere natural courage than the
militia officer, but they have more
military pride, which induces them
to stand, when the militiaman
would retreat at the risk of a rep
utation not fixed as a point of
honor. On the subject of militia see the letters

of Gen Washington & other; written during the war of our revolution: In one of the form he says "I solemnly declare I never was witness to a single instance that can countenance an opinion of militia or raw troops being fit for the real business of fighting." This solemn declaration was made after witnessing the service of militia in the war of 1755 & most of that of the Revolution

Jany
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But at this day we find men
who have danced on a peaceful
parade to a band of music, and
others who have witnessed the play
repudiating the solemn declaration
of the experience Washington, and
the old error of carrying on a war
by detachments of citizens seems to be
gaining advocates—a scheme says
the General on the same letter, that
has almost amused America out
of our liberties.

To account for this we have only
to recollect that a race of young men
has arisen, since the close of the last
war, who have neither theory nor
experience sufficient to enable them
to judge of the operation of an army
and who would be as awkwardly
placed on a field of battle, as in
exhibiting feats of dexterity in a
circus without previous practice.

A protracted war would cure
this error, and show us that
men may be good citizens, and
at the same time no soldiers.

The truth is, before men can be
come such, they must be remod-
dled, worked up into a sort of
machines composed of new springs
& powers, working in unison at
the command of their officers.

When men are brought to this
condition, the commander in
chief will be able to calculate
with precision, the strength of
her force, and know when
to advance on his enemy, and
when to retreat; and here we
see the difference between regular
troops & militia: and what pru-
dent commander is willing to risk
his reputation in conducting an
army composed of the latter.

31

Saturday. Morn cloudy, wind
N. Last night & latter part

of yesterday; some rain fell, but
the usual January thaw has not
occurred: the day continued cloud, with some
snow. Yesterday died Mr. Ebenezer
Hoyt, at the farm house on Cart
ers land, aged 73, of a pulmonary
disease. He was the eldest son of my
late half brother Jonathan Hoyt, and
has left a wife & several sons
& daughter all of mature age.
A few years of his life he spent in Low
er Canada with the late Samuel Gale.

February Sunday Morn 9
ary cloudy, wind NE; &
1 the day was cloudy through
 out.

M. Moors, our ordained clergyman, delivered his introductory Sermon in which he pointed out the duties of a minister and his associates, & gave the outlines of the course he should endeavor to pursue. He did not consider himself infallible, but should endeavor to preach truth; but of this his hearers were to judge, and not to assent to positions they might deem unreasonable, because they were advanced by him. His designs are liberal, and promise the promotion of rational religion.

2 Monday. Cloudy morn and
 wind W; the day the same

In a speech in the U States Senate Gen. Cass says that “nothing has been received by the government, by the last packet which would at all warrant us in suspending or postponing our measures of defence. The subject in controversy remains precisely as it was. The question was, and is, whether we shall surrender to the British demands, or whether the British Government shall surrender to ours. If no such cession is made by either party, the two countries will be brought into conflict.” Still say the party who elected Mr. Polk not a foot of the tract in contest below 54° 40’ shall be surrendered. Is there then no probability of a war? Those who think not are little aware of the indecisiveness of the democratic majority in the U

States, who look not to consequences, but suppose they are aiding liberty by blindly following their leaders, who would destroy all the governments in the world except their own, and ultimately sink this to anarchy and unbridled licentiousness. for the gratification of their wild propensities. Such are the [] with which the real friends of liberty are to contend~

Feb'y

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May not the wild strides we
are making, at length produce a
coalition of the nations of Europe
for their own safety and to put
down a power which is becom
ing a disturber of the peace of
the world, under the false preten
sion of diffusing liberty

Tuesday Cloudy morn, wind
SW; the day continued much the same.
Our General Court. On looking
over its proceedings I notice many
new projects for the Government
of the state, some of which involve
alteration in the Constitution. That
it is susceptible of improvement
is admitted, but any attempts
at alteration at this time, would
be unwise. A more calm state
of the public mind is necessary
before any important alteration
are attempted. Were we to attempt
an entire new constitution of the country
it would partake of principles
as wild as those now embraced
by a large portion of our people,
and be as unstable as the wind.
nor would democracy rest easy un
der any form which lays restriction
or [] on immorality. Men are not
naturally vicious, but they become so
through the influence of those who
have no fixed principles of right.
Hence the disturbances we witness
on our political course.
As respects a session of the General
Court, that which enacts the fewest
laws but discharges its duty to the
state. Already our statutes are nu
merous & still without ~~without~~
the application of the common
law, they would be deficient in
many cases. Perhaps we may then
trust as safely to common law as
to statutes which must always
be imposed from the imperfection

of language. But it is said this would be intrusting too much power to the courts, and true it would were there no fixed principles in our constitutions & the code of morality.

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Yet multiply statute laws
to any extent, still the com
mon law must be applied
in many cases. Hence we see
that both the lex non scrip
ta and the lex scripta¹ are
necessary for courts; and fortu
nate are the people when they
have on their seats of justice, honest
honorable, & discriminating men
who dare perform their duty
aright. Much might be said
on this subject and yet some
[] remain in respect to
the extent of common law.

11

4

Wednesday. Fair morn, N.
wind, and very fair day.
Merriam & Merrick of Greenfield
have for sale History of the Last
War between the United States &
Great Britain by Charles J. Ingersoll. A good history
of that war is wanting, and as
yet I have never perused one that
answered my expectations. A full
detail of its operation would
show us the folly of engaging in
contest without previous prepar
ations; and if the causes of this
were truly given, it would be found
that it might have been honorably
avoided, and under wise leaders
would not have occurred. It is
true that our little navy as well
a some of our land forces, fought
bravely, but little was gained
by the war. One of the ostensible
causes was the right of searching our
vessels for British subjects, but this
was abandoned at the conclusion
of the contest, by the treaty of Ghent.

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¹ *Lex non scripta* is Latin for "laws not written," which includes the laws of nature, law of nations, common law and customs. *Lex scripta* are written laws.

Battles
not
always
well
describe
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Requi
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Military histories written by men unacquainted with the art of war, are generally defective in the details, and unsatisfactory to military men. To describe a battle correctly, requires an exact knowledge of the topography of the Ground and the discipline of the troops engaged, with all the circumstances connected with it. That two armies met, fought, and killed and wounded so many on each side, & one beat the other, may suffice for common readers But the military man looks further He requires such details as will enable him to judge of the skill of the commanders

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Mar
shalls
History

12

the faults committed, and the instances of judicious movement, together with all the circumstances which caused the victory or defeat. Hence the importance of drawn plans of the actions, as well as a knowledge of the ground. Among the Historians of the revolutionary war, I think Marshall gives the best descriptions of battles. Even without plans, he often brings to view the nature of the ground, the position of the opposing armies, and all the important movements required by the military reader.

On the subject of military history, the following remarks of an English Reviewer are apposite. "There is (says he) an idea very prevalent amongst, we believe, writers and authors, as well as amongst the people in general, that the pride, pomp and circumstances of glorious war, are so calculated to excite curiosity and to rouse our passions, that an author but of ordinary talents, is pretty sure of attracting attention, and of acquiring fame if his theme be the adventures of well fought fields with all the vicissitudes of hope, fear, disaster and success. For our parts, we are of opinion that the Bella, the horida Bella, are subjects which require no common degree of skill & judgment to render authoritative in the pages of a book."

Mr Gibbon when young, entered the militia service in England, and endeavored to acquire a knowledge both of the art of war, and of British tactics, and he acknowledges, "that the Captain of the Hampshire militia has not been useless to the historian of the Ro

man Empire.” In fact some of the operation of armies are so intricate & various, as not to be well described by one unacquainted with the art of war: The operation of a systematic siege are of this character. Whether Mr Ingersoll possesses the requisite talents for his history is unknown to us. If so

	his studies must have	13
Feby	been very different from	
4	those of most of our civil men.	
	We shall give the work a	
	thorough perusal when ob	
	tained. To be comprised in 3 vol 8vo	
5	<u>Thursday</u> . Morn & day fair and	
	wind SW. Some thawing of the	
	snow, but sleighing still pretty	
	good, and much improved.	
	During a fair day <u>five minutes</u>	
	seldom elapse without seeing a sleigh	
	stage, sled or other vehicle, passing	
	along on street. But, since the	
	general introduction of iron stoves	
	the quantity of wood brought	
	into the village is much lessened.	
Of } Fuel }	It is now principally cut in the	
	summer season from 3 to 4 feet in length	
	piled in the woods, and conveyed	
	home on the gall or fair part	
	of winter; but it frequently arrives	
	in a soggy state, and requires	
	drying, and after cold weather	
	commences is frozen & burns as	
	slowly as green wood. Fuel should	
	be thoroughly dried & placed in the	
	wood-house before it is exposed	
	to the snow. If brought home	
	in a green state, it should be ex	
	posed to the summer sun, five or	
	six weeks after chopping & splitting and packed in dry fair	
	weather. Economy of fuel de	
	pends much on its proper	
	management, and I believe dry	
	wood is less expensive than green.	
	Moist or soggy wood placed	
	upon a fire, will not burn un	
	til the aqueous matter is evapo	
	rated, and this evaporative	
	carries the heat of the stove	
	up the chimney and very little	
	is imported to the room.	
	While remarking upon the econ	
	omy of fuel, I am led to notice a	
	defect in our cookery. I allude to	

Of }
food }

the neglect of preparing Pot Soup
for families. A common sized
pot of soup, duly prepared,
will furnish an ordinary family
with the requisite animal food
for a week. A small pack of
beef, as the refuse bones of
a beef roasting piece, dropped
into small pieces, boiled slowly
with culinary vegetable, such as
potatoes, onion, beets, carrots, turnips
tomatos & cabbage, all sliced to thin
pieces

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Soups }
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of }

and duly salted & peppered will furnish a dish of wholesome and palatable food; a small quantity of pork may be added, and also a portion of rice. The pot should be nearly filled with the liquid when finished. If the mucilage is sufficient, the soup will form Gelatine, when cold, and may be eaten in that state, or warmed to suit the taste. To give it a further relish, a small quantity of cloves may be added and for those fond of acids vinegar will be necessary. Soups prepared from the bones of mutton, veal, the fat ears, snouts and other offals of swine, will answer, but these substances which contain the the most gelatin are preferable.

The wholesomeness and economy of soup diet, seem not to be duly appreciated by our people, as I believe, from want of deep consideration and neglecting to prepare them. They are the cheapest and most saluting food than can be desired; the most part costing ~~costing~~ not more than 1/8 of a dollar per week.

With a supply of Indian Corn meal for various sorts of puddings, and a small quantity of milk and soup diet, a needy family, will hardly find itself despaired of the comforts of life; and even those in middling circumstances will crave little more.

To the affluent whose tastes have the refined arts of cookery, we present no rules. They may indulge their appetites at the expense of health; but let them reflect that their artificial tastes

& wants will find but a few years
for indulgence.

6

Friday Fair morn and day, with
NW wind

For several days past we have
nothing of importance from Con-
gress: the war party talk of
increasing our means of defence
by an increase of the navy; but
when they look at the expense
they

Feby
6

15
by their zeal seems to
abate, and no measures
are taken to increase the land
forces. Indeed we are in
a fine situation for war!
But our militia are to
reap the laurels! What infatu-
ation! Is the Bladensburg
affair & the sacking of the
city of Washington forgotten, or
a race of men come upon
the stage who laying aside
their implements of agriculture
are ready to crop bayonets
with war worn veterans!
Idle presumption! Thirty
years have not changed the
characters of our men, always
brave enough for soldiers, and
ignorant of their duties.
Young men, under the impulse of
patriotism, no doubt are ready
to take the field at a call, and
as ready to quit it when they
perceive death and the horrors
of battle approaching. Led by
spirited officers in small bodies
they may be brought into
action, but their ardor soon
cools; they misgive & fall into
confusion, from which it is
impossible to rally them. And why
should men who love life and
the endearments of home con-
duct otherwise?
But place them in the ranks of a
regular ~~a~~ battalion, and [] them to
the service under chivalrous officers
who will risk life rather than
reputation, and they will stand
their ground, because they dare
not retreat. Here then we may
comprehend the sum and substance
of what is called military bravery.
Which is but little understood
by the people at large.

Saturday. Cloudy morn, wind
W, and cloudy day.
Accounts from Washington ex-
press a belief that the British
minister has received instructions
from his Government to renew
the negotiation on the Oregon
question

Febby
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question. If this be a fact and Mr. Polk were at liberty to decide for himself, we believe an adjustment might be completed in a very short time. But his democratic friends allow him no choice in the case. They say the whole of Oregon, or war; but what this whole is no one can define. But since the interests and welfare of the two nations is so intimately connected, we think war will not occur. Our brethren of the west who have sharpened their tomahawk, and oiled their rifles for the contests may be disappointed; but they may find other employment more profitable, and at length thank the wise statesmen of the east for warding off the calamity into which they would have recklessly plunged themselves for the purpose of wreaking their foolish vengeance on. Great Britain, because she claims what she supposes her right.

8

Sunday. Fair, morn wind NW.
and very clear day

Wonderful
boy of
Vermont }

In the Boston Courier of the 4th instant we see an account of a wonderful Boy of 10 years, by Henry W. Adams. an agent of the Bible society at Concord NH published in the Zion's Herald. His name is Truman Henry Sanford, born at Royston on the 5th of January 1836; and his performances appear to exceed those of the renowned Zerah Colburne of the same state. To preserve the account I have cut it from the Courier and pasted it on, the first page of this book Mr Adam's account seems incredible, and, at any rate, requires the most indestructible evidence to produce assent on the part of the reader.

But admitting the facts stated by Mr Adams, what are we to conclude in relation to the human mind?

Is it true that some of the human race ar[e] born with faculties, which enable them to perceive mathematic truths, as the generality of men perceive what are called axioms, or self evident truths? True

True we are informed that men have been known, who on a glance of the rye upon the demonstrations of Euclid, perceived them to be true on a moments inspection, as if by intuition, but they were not ten year old boys; They undoubtedly went through the same process of deduction as other mathematicians, but with more rapidity.

Mr Adams thinks the lads know is not intuitive, for he reasoned and sometimes explained his processes; but the wonder is by what means he selected his processes. His extraction of the cube root, of large numbers were performed in his head, almost instantaneously, and he solved some of the most intricate problems in the same manner. In short, of such a mind we can form no conceptions of its powers and operation, but by supposing it of a higher order than is found in men of common intellects. Indeed we see among men, a gradation of intellect from the idiot to the deepest philosopher. How far short of the great minds of Newton, La Place, and many mathematicians who might be named, are those of mankind in general. Even in the minds of the lower animals (which we are compelled to grant them) we have strong reason to believe them possessed of very different powers of discernment even in the same species. In general man arrives at mathematical truth by slow processes of deduction from a few self evident propositions. The demonstration of the proposition, that the square of the hypotenuse of a right angled triangle

is equal to those of its legs, is not readily seen by one not conversant with geometry. But may not there be higher grades of intellect which perceive at a glance, the truth of such propositions as readily as we do the truth of axioms. This seems to be the only way by which the extraordinary performances of young Safford can be accounted for. Mr Adams' accounts of him, as I have remarked, appear incredible, but it would be difficult to explain his motives if he means

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to deceive the public by false representations; We shall therefore admit them as facts, still with the belief that he may, as some instances have been himself deceived.

9

Monday Fair morn, wind W.
and the day continued fair, but sometimes the sun covered with broken clouds Air rather cool.
Nothing new from our Legislative bodies this day: the last debates in Congress upon the Oregon question indicate a cooling of the war spirit, but the custom tomahawk is still brandished. Yet it is hoped it will soon be laid aside for the implements of agriculture, the only weapons for their prosperity and happiness.
Let them then, erect their houses and barns, fence or ditch their prairies, turn up the soil and plant the proper seeds, and by the blessings of Providence, they will reap abundant crops for themselves and families. A spirit of war under these conditions is insanity of the most fatal kind, and would be avoided were the people better informed.

10

Tuesday Morn fair, wind SW.
air cold, and very clear day.
The suns declination is now about $14^{\circ}.22'$ S and the length of day $10^h 21^m$ consequently of the night $13^h 39^m$

Earths
motion
regu
larity
of

With what wonderful exactness the earth moves in its orbit and at the same time turning on its axis from year to year, giving us seasons and days!
We say the orbital motion is caused by the combined action of gravity & projection. But are these powers inherent and distinct from the energy of the Creator? Or one given to the earth, do they require new energy to continue the motion?

Reflec
tions }

The answer is not without difficulty; but in either case design is evident, and proves the wisdom and power of its author; and when we take a glance at the universe at large, imperfect as the view is, we see the same wisdom & power in constant operation, and are irresistibly led to the knowledge of the existence of a grand & wise being, of whose attributes we can form no adequate conceptions; and we wonder and adore.

Feby 10 Yet not to earth's continued span 19
 Thy goodness let [] bound,
 Or think the Lord alone of man,
 When thousand worlds are round.
 To thee, whose temple is all space
 whose altar, earth, seas skies,
 One chorus let all being raise!
 All nature's incense rise!"²

11 Wednesday. Morn cloudy
 wind N and some snow falling
 day continued cloudy.
Edward Everett is elected Pre
 sident of Harvard University by
 a unanimous vote. (64) No man
 it is believed in the State, is better
 prepared for the office than Mr
 Everett; and I am gratified to
 find that jacobin democracy has been
 disappointed in its attempt to
 derange the order of the College
 by working upon the prejudices
 of orthodoxy. Had their base
 plan succeeded, not only science
 and literature, but rational re
 ligion would have received a deep
 wound. Let but the old rigid
 system of orthodoxy be restored, and
 Christianity would make but
 a sorry progress among thinking
 men. Until the College places
 Christianity upon philosophical
 grounds, the system was incapable of de
 fence. Even Yale finds it necessary
 to prune off some of its []
 but that institution retains too
 many for its credit, and respect
 ability. Its science is however
 valuable, but its theology darkens
 the mind of its pupils, and ren
 ders them fit instruments for im
 posing upon simple minds.
 While the system of Calvin finds
 advocates, and is made the basis
 of Christianity, the people, if not
 well informed, may be kept in

² From Alexander Pope's *The Universal Prayer*.

a fog; but in a country where
men are free to examine for them
selves, the fog will be dissipated.
The time has come in which the
evil propensities and crimes of
men should not be charged upon
the Deity, or, which is the same
imputed to the disobedience of their
progenitor six thousand years be
fore they were born. Into what
absurdities my not the misinformed
be led by a bigoted clergy!
In the middle states where Presby
terianism prevails, and in some
parts of New England among the Congregation
ists

Febby
11

The [] system of Calvin has 20

its advocates, but they are a little cautious of treating much upon its tenants in their pulpits; and there they [] them from their hearers.

But as an enlightened preacher has remarked, the scheme "can not, and will not be endured by the people" Either a rational system must be adopted, or rational men will reject the whole. The functional zeal of Orthodoxy is giving way to more enlightened views, and in this country of free investigation the truth of mankind will break from the shackles with which a fanatical clergy have so long bound them. Instances may be found where schemes equally absurd may be adopted, but these will be limited to places where general knowledge is at a low ebb. In our new settlements mor manism, or those schemes equally foolish may be found, but they will disappear as real knowledge prevails. Let then the light of real education be diffused and men will no longer remain in the fog, which obfuscates the divine attributes of the Creator.

12

Thursday. Fair morn wind
N and clear day & cool air.

Account
from
Washington

By account from Washington, it appears that there had been some further correspondence between our government and that of Great Britain, on the Oregon question, and the opinion is, that the difficulty will be adjusted by agreeing on the 49th degree of latitude, with some concessions favorable to the British in regard to harbors. This is favorable but will Mr Polk's tomahawk

ers consent to such an adjustment! Mr Polk must keep his eye on his popularity, since he is the people's man. Should this dispute be adjusted, Congress will be at liberty to act on innovations which have been promised: the tariff will probably be one of the firsts, since democracy has pounced to date upon it as a popular measure. But who believes

that

that alteration of duties
on certain articles will be
an amendment? Introduce as
many alterations as whiners
may suggest, still the tariff will
be imperfect. Why then this
barking at a wind mill?
The answer is ready: it is a
popular subject and squints
at the ballot box, with shiver
ing effect.

But let us hope that this
spirit of innovation will
ease with that of war, and
the people turn their attention
to the arts of peace, on which
their prosperity and respecta
bility rests.

When the vast territory of the
Union shall become peopled
and brought under cultivation
and the ameliorating arts,
sciences and morals, shall be
diffused throughout, we may
become the most powerful
nation on earth, to whom
the other nations will look for
protection.

But if we, like the Roman
Empire, embrace a spirit of
usurpation and conquest, we
shall like them, fall from our
greatness and may find the old
nations of Europe combined to defend
themselves against our injustice
and rapidity. Peace then is our
only safe course and let us
be wise nough to pursue it.

We are however in danger of divi
sions of our territory from its ex
tent; and how for a nation
under one political body may ex
tend, is a question of import
ance. Taking history for a guide
we find that extended empires
have fallen. An extensive nation

of ordinary population is vulnerable at all points when assaulted by one possessing a superior navy. While one point is attacked & troops collected for defence another may be assailed, and thus a floating force of 8 or 10 thousand men, wary keep an extended sea coast in constant alarm, and 100,000 men would be required to insure safety at all ports. There we see that the United States are weak & feeble as a military nation. Its aggregate population had created a false impression of its strength

Feby		With a navy decidedly superior
12		to that of Great Britain the case
		would be reversed, but still our
		sparse population renders us
		weak in our land defense.
13		<u>Friday</u> . Morn fair, wind NW
		and a fair day, with cold air.
		Good sleighing continues and
		[] brisk
14		<u>Saturday</u> Morn fair, and N.
		PM proved generally cloudy & cold.
		We have, in the papers, the
Brit	}	correspondence between Secretary
ish		Buchanan and the British min
corres		ister at Washington, communi
pond		cated to the House of Representa
ance		tives by the President, Feby 7 th ,
		from which it appears Mr
		Parkingham proposes that the
		Oregon dispute may be sub
Arbi	}	mitted to a <u>fair arbitration</u> , but
tration		has been refused, under the most idle
offered		pretences by the President~
&re		In this refusal Mr. Polk has
fused		acted precisely as I anticipate
		in case the proposition
		should be made. He does not
affects	}	forget the <u>demands</u> of the <u>war</u>
of		<u>hawks</u> who placed him in
		the white house. It is now the
		task of the democratic editors
		to reconcile his <u>pretended desire</u>
		of peace, with his conduct.
		The refusal of the proposition
		will open the eyes of honest
		men to his real designs, and
		turn the public mind in Europe
		to the plans of the present
		dominant party here. The ob
		jections of Mr. Buchanan, against
		the proposition are idle and
		even puerile, and will sink
		him to a low level in the minds
		of the friends of the Country~
		No fairer mode of settling the
		dispute could have been devised;

and if our infatuated democracy is determined to plunge us into a war, under this condition, they must abide the consequences.

The Latin proverb, “Quos Deus vult perdere prius dementant³” offers an appropriate remark.

In the House of Representatives the Resolution for correcting

³ “Those whom a god wishes to destroy he first drives mad.”

Feby
14

23

the treaty of 1827, for the joint occupancy of Oregon, has passed by a vote of 163 to 54, with the name of John Q. Adams at the head of the majority. In the Senate it is though it will meet with sound opposition, and perhaps be defeated. But afterward, perhaps the present mania for war will not be cured until its distresses and miseries are felt. A new race, burning with "military glory" have come upon the stage, who from their ignorance of war, think it a pastime. A few months of service in the field however will show it to be a tragedy, and that they will be very ready to quit the stage for more peaceful employments; and that the Bella the horrid Bella have no further charms for them. This is the common effect on militia men, so confidently relied on by our wild patriots, who shout war at home, but carefully remain at a safe distance from the bloody field!

Mr }
Polk }

In reprising the proposition of Mr Parkingham to settle the ~~Oregon~~ dispute by arbitration, if Mr Polk is honest, his foresight is extremely limited and his judgment evidently imbecile. And his friends may find it difficult to raise him to a rank above that which he sustained in his obscurity prior to his election to the station he now holds. Much pains have been taken by democratic editors to elevate him to the rank of a wise statesman, but nothing has yet ap

peared to give him the desired
elevation; and an unjust war,
may sink him below his
former level. The reasons assigned
for refusing an arbitration in-
dicate a weakness of mind
far greater than his opponents
have anticipated.

In his party appointments
and exclusive course, no proofs
are exhibited of an elevated mind
which sees & respects worth, even
in a political opponent.

Feby
14

His
form
er ob
scuri
ty }

In his social intercourse with his 24

friends, Mr Polk is said to display the easy manners of the gentleman, but let it be remembered that these qualities, though agreeable, are not necessarily connected, with []

[] talents. But granting him this it is singular that he has not been more extensively known with in the United States.

When Mr Polk was nominated by the democratic convention, at Baltimore, his name was as unknown to the people at large as if he were an inhabitant of Laputa; and by what means the conversation ascertained that he was their man, is to us unknown. It appears however that they have not mistaken him. On his election to the Presidency, the friends of the Republic resolved to watch his course, and to give support to his measures, so far as they were wise & constitutional; but they hardly anticipate so gross a step as that now taken in the dispute with Great Britain on the Oregon boundary.

By the refusal of the Mr Parkingshams proposition the government of Great Britain has obtained the "vantage ground" and this will be seen throughout civilized Europe.

Unfortunately for the United States her flag ship is now under a pilot of doubtful skill, who may run her up on the rocks. We are now in want of a pilot of known skill; one in whom the wise statesmen of the country could place confidence. Should war

occur with Great Britain, we shall need the advice and council of our eminent men for our defence; and how far they will act with zeal in a war waged under the present circumstances is a question of importance. They may find it necessary to ward off the danger into which they have been unnecessarily plunged by the stupidity of our government; but let it be recollected that the people at large will not

Feby
14

long sustain a war unnec 25
essarily waged, but when they
feel its distresses & privations,
its taxes, and enormous cost &
loss of trade & commerce, they will
resort to the ballot boxes for
redress; and let the present
incumbents of office look to
their fate.

But we are told by visionary
orators and demonous demagogues
that a war with Great Britain
would sweep her from North
America, that 200,000 men may
be sent to Canada to clean that
section from British usurpers, & to
introduce our principles of liberty;
But who are these men so readi
ly put on the march? They are
the farmers, mechanics, traders &c
who find employment at home
in time of peace, and supplies
for themselves and families by
their industry. Do these noisy
demagogues forget that these in
vaders require food, clothing,
arms, ammunition and hay
from the government, besides
supplies for their families left
at home; and do these vacifer
ous gentlemen suppose that our farmers
and mechanics who are dexterous
in wielding the implements of their
professions, or our militia
corps who dance so prettily on
a smooth parade at the turn
of a band musick, are soldiers
stupid pretension! A slight
examination of the art of war
as now practiced by the scientific
nations of Europe, would teach
them the fallacy of their whims,
and that numerical force,
is of secondary consideration
in military operation. I think
I hazard nothing in saying

that an army of 70 thousand disciplined men
furnished with ample sustenance
and munitions of war, cannot
be beaten by all the militia that
can be brought against it: nor
can a militia of large numeri
cal force be commanded by every
General however skillful he may
be: Nor, as Gen. Washington has said
will any commander risk his rep
utation at the head of an un
disciplined army, against one com
posed of regular troops. A small
body

Feb
14

body of militia in the woods,
or posted in fortified works, may
perform useful service; but in
the open field they will not
stand a moment against an equal
numerical force of well disciplined
troops.

Are we then ready for a con
test with Great Britain? Let the
experienced military officers de
cide.

15

Of a
Miller
ial
State

Sunday. Morn cloudy, with
a snow storm and N. wind
(or N by E). Storm continued
through the day and a con
siderable depth of snow fell
say 8 inches or more. Some say 12”
Some of our millerians, have
flattered themselves that disputes
between nations were about to
be settled without a resort to
arms, and the wars would
be unknown in future. But if we judge
from the present war spirit
now formed in the United States,
and how the conduct of its govern
ment in refusing to submit
the dispute between us and Great
Britain, to an arbitration, we
have little reason to look for that
glorious time ~~to~~—} for
years to come. Wars in Eu

Wars
less fre
quent
in Europe

rope, it is true, are less fre
quent than formerly which
may be attributed to the terri
ble conflict sustained during
the French revolution in which
a vast number of the human
race were destroyed in the mil
itary operation under the
conduct of the madman, Napo
lean Bonaparte. This terrible

Causes
of as
signed

flood of inequity seems to have allayed
the war spirit, in a degree, in
Europe. But we, a young nation
knowing little of the distresses

of war, are cherishing a hostile spirit, and our young men seem to think that a glorious opportunity is approaching in which they can acquire glorious fame. A more pernicious delusion cannot be cherished. But the idea of "glorious war" is not to be eradicated by reasoning, and perhaps nothing short of a severe contest will cure the evil spirit.

Feby
15

False
notion
of mil
itary
glory

Charms
of Bo
naparts
battle

Fal
lacy
of mil
itary
glory

27
Young men we have seen,
who read the accounts of
battles in which 20 to 30 thousand
human beings were prostrated
in the contested field, with cal
lous indifference, or one hu
mane reflection;- and if one
of Bonapart's battles, the greater
number of men killed, the
greater the pleasure of the
perusal. A battle in which
a thousand or fifteen hundred
were killed, scarcely attracts
their attention. Details of
the great battles of Bonaparte create a sort
of adoration towards the offi
cers who conducted them, &
they are declared the greatest men in
the world! These false no
tions should find no place
in the minds of youth.
The battles of Bonaparte were
scenes of butchery from which
the humane man recoils with
shuddering pity. His great battle
with the Russians at Boradi
no, and his subsequent ruinous retreat
from Mase'o, exhibited military
glory in no enviable point
of view. This final de
feat at Waterloo totally eclipsed his fame
and St. Helena ended the bubble.
In perusing accounts of these
battles we should recollect
the objects intended to be gained
by them, and in this light
it will be seen, that nothing
but ambition and & person
al aggrandizement were the
objects of Bonaparte but poor incentives
to military glory. If any are
entitled to the epithet, it is those
who have aided in a defen
sive war against ambition
injustice & rapacity, rare in
centives to war at this stage

a mil
leri
sm }

of civilization: and it is to
be hoped that wars like Bona
parte and the last that may
inflict misery on the world.
With regard to a millerism
if we have wisdom ~~of the~~ that
such a period is to occur
we think there is little indication
of its approach at this time.

Feb'y	True it is, the arts and sci
15	ences have been advanced and by their aid men are capable of deep penetration into the laws of nature, and of arriving at wonderful results; but there they stop, and all beyond is conjecture. The science of Govern ment has also been improved, and the natural rights of man, are better regarded. But unfortunately it happens, that as the spirit of liberty advances, the bulk of man kind are as liable to errors as [] in former times. Though the influence of evil men, a jealousy is created against great and good men, who are held up as enemies to the common people, an error of the most dangerous kind; and instead of advancing in the sci ence of Government, we seem to be falling back. At any rate nothing is seen that indicates an ap proach of a millennium; and it is feared that our future history will be as bloody as that of prior times.
Progress of Arts & scien ces	
Of Gov ern ment	
Errors enter tained	
Corse queries	
16	<u>Monday.</u> Fair morn, wind N. Afternoon generally cloudy and some snow fell.
17	<u>Tuesday.</u> Cloudy morn, wind NW; sun seen at noon: Most of the day cloudy. The democratic papers are trying their sophistry to keep the peo ple blind to the <u>refusal</u> of Presi dent Polk to submit the Oregon dis put to <u>arbitration</u> ; but the discerning part of the people see in this conduct a base sub mission to the dictates of his <u>western war hawks</u> . Mr Polk, and his Cabinet may act in unison, but what is their <u>brief</u> <u>authority</u> ? When put in oppo
Demo critic pa pers	

sition to the interests of the people
who have in their hands full
power over the ballot boxes? Re
member this master John! Four years
at the White House is a short period,
and Bladenburg's field is near
the capitol.

War! What are we to gain
by it? Our country now pre
sents a flourishing country and is enjoy
ing in peace, all that is possible under

our

free constitutions and equal laws; our farmers obtain a good price for their products, the laborer without property, high wages, and all sit peaceably under their vines and fig trees yet a party are uneasy, and ready for fight; They would overthrow all old constitutions and introduce new ones from the land of Utopia. Who are these men, and are they of sane minds? Clearly not. They are that sort of men who find no charms in regular society, or nothing inviting in the ~~on the~~ works of natures. In short they have never learned to repose under the salutary rules of civilized society~ If we but listen to them, we hear loud vociferations about Honor—National Honor! As if there could be any honor in fighting for the settlement of undisputed boundaries in the wild woods, which legitimately belong to the aborigine who inhabit them~ When either nation shall show a clear & fair title to the Country from the natives there will be some foundation for acclaim. The right claimed from a ship sailing along a coast for the first time, and even landing and trading with the natives, seems too preposterous to deserve a serious refutation~ If a settlement be formed on a new sea coast, by the consent of the natives inhabiting it, and trade be opened advantageous to both, a right seems to have been obtained, and when the settlement is made under the patronage of a government

with a promise of protection,
then that government is bound
to fulfil its promise. In dividen
ds, or companies, may also obtain
a possession, talks in the same
manner; but they have no claim
on the government whence they
emigrated, unless that govern
ment promises protection. The

title they have thus obtained must be defended by themselves and they, in fact, become a people distinct from the country where they immigrated and have no claims to its protection. In this view of the subject, neither we nor Great Britain have argued a real right to any part of the NW coast of America; and by what right any degree of latitude, in the interior of the Country, is made a boundary, we have yet to learn. But it is said we have acquired a right to the Oregon Country, by settlements made on its principal river, This right, however belongs to the individual who formed the settlement, but not to the country from which they emigrated. Their positions I am aware, ~~will~~ will be considered unsound by those who hold that the rude natives of a country have no right to the soil they inhabit. To such I leave the task of showing the correctness of their positions. In case a nation takes possession of an uninhabited Island of the Pacific ocean, not rightly claimed by any other nation, it becomes the property of the nation which settled it; but if the settlement is made by individual enterprise the land becomes their own. His Holyness, the Pope of Rome, once claimed the whole of our globe as his right, but a satirical writer very appropriately calls on him to show his title deeds from Adam. In modern times the right of discovery has superceded the Popes claims, and which has the best foundation is a question.

In the present dispute between us and Great Britain, the rules of right adopted by Courts of equity and arbitrations, should apply as in disputes between the boundary of contiguous farms; and the nation which refuses to submit its claims to a fair umpire is evidently in the wrong. and evinces a disposition hostile to the peace of the world insufferable at the present time.

Feb
18

Gen. }
Court }

Wednesday. Morn fair and wind NE, and a fine day succeeded: Yet I observe no diminution of the snow. From the proceedings of our General Court, it appears that petitions are still flowing in, and among them many for grants of Rail Roads through towns situated at a distance from the great arteries [] to the city of Boston. This zeal for the roads, I think, will soon abate, and the people become satisfied that other well made roads will answer all the purposes of inland transportation. The benefits occurring from short roads of this kind, have been overrated; and it is a fact that no town in the interior of the country, can afford to construct one through its limits, without aid from the capitalists of our large trading cities; and it is not to be supposed they will invest their money or cross routes or parallel ways. The route from Fitchburg to Athol, thence down Miller river & through Northfield to Brattleborough, lags, and "it is doubted whether the road will be constructed. A route from Grant's Greenfield is out of question, and a continuation to Troy, but a visionary project, promising not even a probability. But it is not the strangest project in the world, that men in their zeal should have entertained the thought of tunneling Hoosac Mountain. When our farmers shall turn their labor to the cultivation of their lands, they will find more profitable employments, and that rail-roads are not the most direct ways to competence and

happiness.

Mountains, hills & valleys,
constitute fertile farms, and
feed a hardy race, who,

“Urge then every import
through every [], in every clime.”

And if nature decrees them
the facilities of rail roads, they cut
down hills, fill up valleys & con
struct roads not much inferior.

Mountain air renders them
healthy & masculine exercises can
[]

Feby
18

[] [] limbs and after a 32
due course of military discipline
none make most efficient sol
diers. Remarking upon the
Highlanders of Scotland, Burns
has the following lines:
“But bring a Scotsman frae his hill,
Clap in his cheek a Highland gill,
Say such is George’s will.
An there’s the foe,
He has no thought but how to kill
Twa at a blow.”⁴

19

The mountainers of New England
though not remarkably addicted
to the “Highland gill,” partake of
the character of the Scotch
Thursday A fair morn, wind
N. and cold air, succeeded
by a fair day: Good sleighing.

In the New York Journal
of Commerce, it is said the
boundary of Oregon is to be
fixed on the 49th degree of latitude
and as a sort of compensation
to us, our tariff is to be so mod
ified as to admit British man
ufactures at a low rate of duty.
If this is the fact the southern
states are likely to effect their
object of checking northern
enterprise by admitting for
eign articles at an easy rate.
Such [] policy is
despicable; but may be
considered as honorable by a
nation which sees no injustice
in grasping a neighboring ter
ritory, because it is within
its power without regard
to moral right. But if the
northern states are to be thus
deprived of their manufacturing
enterprise, let our government
look to the consequences. Un
der such a system a division

⁴ From Robert Burns’ *The Author’s Cry and Prayer*.

of the Union would indeed,
be probable, not to say necessary.
Friday. Morn cloudy wind N & E
with snow; and additional
quantity of which fell last night,
The storm continued through the day.
The Boston Post says Mr
Sunderland (of whom we have
heard something) is exhibiting
unparalleled experiments, at the
Fremont Temple, in which he
attempts to account for the visions
of

Feby
20

Sun
der
lands
lectures

of Swedenburg, the miracles
of Papists and the mormans
witchcraft, ghosts, and vari
ous mysteries hitherto supposed
to be supernatural.

If Mr. Sunderland explains
these phantoms by mesmerism,
are they less mysterious than
when attributed to the devil
or some other evil beings, which
have been conjured up by im
aginary men? Why not then
permit them to remain un
der their former supposed
agents, not less mysterious
than the hypothesis of mes
merism?

We seem to have reached an
age in which all former systems
of natural & mental philosophy are to
be set aside by Lectures of
occult pretensions~

Axi
oms
of phi
losophy

To me the standard axioms
of philosophy, appear to be
sound- Viz 1st No thing has no
property. 2d. No substance, or
no thing, can be produced from
nothing by any created being.
3d. Matter cannot naturally
be annihilated~ From these
axioms the following rules
have been deduced, which also ap
pear sound.

Rules
of

1. We are to admit no more
causes of natural things, than
such as are both true & suffi
cient to explain their appearances.
2d. Therefore to the same natur
al effects we must, as far
as possible, assign the same
causes. 3d. Such qualities of bo
dies as are not capable of
increase or decrease, and which
are found to belong to all bo
dies within the reach of our
experiments, are to be esteemed

the universal qualities of
all bodies whatsoever. 4th

In experimental philosophy
we are to look upon propo-
sitions collected by general
induction from phenomena
as accurately or very nearly
true, notwithstanding any
contrary hypothesis that may
be imagined, till such time
as other phenomena occur
by which they either may be
corrected, or may be shown

34

to be liable to exceptions.
These axioms and rules, as
laid down by a standard writer
and would if regarded
fortify the mind against
the fallacious schemes we
so often have from modern lec-
turers, who find the great-
est effect in an audience who have
never been regulated by a
balance wheel.
I am aware that important dis-
courses may yet be made in
natural philosophy, but we
are not to look from them in
itinerant lecturers. I recall
once to have attended one of these
lectures, who attempted to over-
throw Newton's doctrines of op-
tics, but I could never learn that
he obtained any converts; and
we often hear of new theories
of the tides; but I believe the
moon still continues her
influence on the Ocean by
her attractive power.
Phrenology has delineated her
bumps upon maps of the skull
and given names to the brain
under the respective sections; and
now mesmerism is advancing
new doctrines in psychology
which by a sort of obliquity
is to render the human mind
capable of scanning the recon-
dite laws of nature. Surely we
are making great progress
and man is becoming a being
aspiring to knowledge his
condition will not admit him to possess
"What would this man now upward would
he soar,
And little less than angels, would
be more"⁵
Saturday. Morn fair and W.

⁵ From Alexander Pope's *Essay on Man*, Epistle 1.

and the afternoon cloudy.

The snow is now deep (Say 2 feet)

Report of Adjutant General

Oliver, on the militia~

Gen. }
Oliver }
Report }

The Boston Post gives us a synopsis of this Document, in which some of the errors of an militia system and pointed out, which evinces a knowledge of military science, rarely found among our militia officers

He

Feby 21	He notices, the puerile 35 show and senseless parades of our military corps. Their military <u>visits</u> he thinks, are too expensive and tend to throw discredit upon the service, in the opin ion of a prudent and sober minded community, and, re marks upon the folly of em ploying so many men as <u>mu</u> <u>sicians</u> , by single companies and also the want of good field & staff officers & and alludes to the prancing horses and splendid caparisons, on muster days. It gives me satisfaction to find <u>one officer</u> , in the militia who is not charmed with the fool ish show of our parades, and has the good sense to repudiate them. From the synopsis I am inclined to believe that Genera Oli ver has acquired some just views of military discipline. I regret that some friend in the General Court, has not fur nished me with a printed copy of the report, since it is known that it treats of a subject on which {——} I have spent much time. But an <u>Octo</u> <u>genary</u> must not complain if he is forgotten by young men whose minds are confined to the ordinary pursuits of life.
Of the mili tia }	
Judi cious re marks of }	
22	<u>Sunday</u> Fair morn, wind NW. and fine day~ The British Steam Ship <u>Cambia</u> arrived at Boston on the 18 th in stant, after a passage from Liverpool of 14 ½ days, bringing papers from London & Liverpool of the 3d & 4 th instant. The English Parliament was then in session, and the Queen's speech says, "I regret that the conflicting claims of Great Britain
arri val of a Brit ish steam er }	

Queens
speech }

and the United States in respect of the territory on the NW coast of America, although they have been the subject of repeated negotiation, still remain unsettled.” She adds, “you may be assured that no efforts consistent with national honor shall be wanting on my part to bring this question to an early and peaceful termination.” The speech goes on to state that an

Feby
22

Par
lia
ment }

Mr
Hum
es re
marks }

No ir
rita
tion
man
ifested }

Our
patri
ots so
called }

an increase of the naval & military establishments will be proposed. The debates in parliament are temperate, and indicate no desire to go to war with us on the Oregon boundary, but holds out an honorable course as essential. On the House of Commons Mr Hume said, "he hoped that the right honorable baronet (Robert Peel) would continue to maintain, the good understanding which appeared to prevail between France & England. It was British Government, united with that of France, to command the peace of the world. Quarrels might take place between different nations, but these two great nations united, would prevent war." Such a Union, it is hoped will take place, and banish the scourge of nations from the earth. In the debates no irritating language, like that of our western war hawks, is seen and no vulgar prejudices are vented against other nations, because they differ in their modes of government from their own. Between two governments, whose interests are so much alike as that of Great Britain & the U States, it appears next to an impossibility that a war should occur. Nor would [] symptoms of it exist, were our pretended patriots honest men seeking the welfare of mankind. Vulger prejudices against nations should find no place in the hearts of honorable men; and in general they are confined to those of low intellects who wish to de

vote themselves above their natural level, too often successful in new states where stump orators charm the multitude by their vociferations & pretended love of liberty. But these patriots enjoy but a short political life; the same shout that raised them to place, throws them back to their former standing and not infrequently with curses on their heads. Such is the instability of men voting from the impulse of the moment.

Feb 22		In respect to a war, if Mr. Polk is resolved to pro duce one to gratify his demo crats, let him look to the consequences, and not rush into it unprepared.	37
War of 1812	}	In the war of 1812, Mr Mad ison, under the belief that an undisciplined force of farmers mechanics &c. were suffici ent for any military en terprise, dashed heedlessly on, and attempted the conquest of Canada, but the attempt soon taught him the fallacy of his ex periment and that war could not be successfully pro secuted without regular troops and money to sup port them. Nor did he dream that his capital would be involved and destroyed by a few thousand British troop and he be driven over the Poto mac to seek safety in his native state: And finally to close the contest without effecting the object for which it was <u>ostensibly</u> declared. Mr. Polk has the lesson of that war before him, and should recollect that his democrats are not the men on whom great reliance can be placed in a time of severe pressure; but may become his inveterate opposers when they experience the deprivations of a pro tracted war. And finally may he learn that peace, and not a useless extension of territory as essential to our prosperity and happiness.	
Rash & un wisely com menced	}		
Con sequen ces	}		
A les son to Mr Polk	}		
23		<u>Monday.</u> Morn partially cloudy, & wind S.W. but the	

Con
gress
debates }

day generally fair
In the debates of Congress on
the Oregon question, we find the
most zealous among the members
from the western states. In the
Senate A Cass from Michigan,
a Hannagan from Indiana and
an Allen from Ohio, are forward
and

Febby
23

West
ern
mem
bers }

insist on what they call the
whole territory up, at least to Lat
54°..40', but on what grounds
is only known to themselves.~

Are these men more wise, more
discerning, or more honest, than
the members from the old eastern
states. Who look coolly and
dispassionately into the ques
tion? Who believes this to be
the case? These western mem
bers seem to have formed their
notions from the wildness
of their woods & prairies, and
the prowess of their militia from
the feats of their hunters and
trappers, whom they suppose
are superior to disciplined vet
erans in a field battle. Their
knowledge of war upon a
large scale, is as crude as the
people who elected them to
their present seats. If perchance
there are among them men
of a different character, they
are seen to meet the violent
censure of the people if they
express sentiments on the
question, more consistent
with common sense.

But it is hoped that these fur
ries will find themselves un
able to derive the more think
ing people of the old states, and
plunge us into an unnec
essary war, which would
be felt on the Atlantic sea
board, and not in the inte
rior states. These men may
figure for a while, but the
people will at length learn to
appreciate them by their real
worth as morals & and intel
ligence diffused among them.

24

Tuesday. A fair morn, with W wind
and a clear day.

Gen
Olivers
report
rem
arks
on



Remarking upon the Report
of Adjutant General Oliver on the
militia, the Christian Register
of the 21st instant, says, "We shall
contribute, as we have ability,
in the production of a public
opinion, which in good season
will dispense with a military

[]

Feby
24

Edit
or of
Christ
ian
Register

Organization.” [] it 39
is presumed, that there should
be no military forces in the
state. This, I think, is Utopi
an. Does the Editor believe
even the laws could be en
forced without some such
peace? And since other nations
maintain military forces
what assurance have we
that our liberty and Con
stitutions might not be over
thrown by an ambitious pow
er which disregards right
and justice as that of Bona
parte in the time of the
French revolution. When the
great nations of the world,
shall adopt and act, upon
peace principles, we may
talk of non-resistance, and
of maintaining our independ
ence by resting on the justice
of nations. Weak as a mili
tia force may be, it is necessary
in time of peace to enforce the
laws, The scheme of non
resistance is predicated on a
false notion of the perfectibility
of man, to which he has not
and we fear will not arrive.
In an offensive war we care
not to what extent the Quaker
system is carried, but in a
defensive one, our safety de
pends on a military force, &
the only question is, in what
this force shall consist. The
plan of converting all able bo
died men to soldiers, is a fool
as as it is useless, but a portion
must be inured to arms or
government is a farce.
To what defence the editor would
have recourse in a defensive
war I am at a loss. Perhaps

to a creation of men armed
cap a pie, like the fabulous
scheme of Deucalion & Pyrrha
to people the world anew!⁶
Such folly, I regret to see in
the respectable editor of the
Register. The able & successful
manner in which he assails
the dogmas of Calvinism which
have long enveloped Christianity
in

⁶ In Greek mythology, Deucalion & Pyrrha were the only human survivors of a great flood caused by Zeus. They were able to repopulate the world by throwing rocks over their shoulders. The rocks turned into men and women.

Febby
24

in darkness, or presented it
in features repulsive to reflecting
minds, is cordially acknow-
ledged. But while he finds
his victories so easy over a weak
foe let him not suppose
he will be equally successful in cases
which present doubtful results
25 Wednesday Morn partially fair,
wind NW, the day continued
much the same

Wea-
ther
cold }

The weather is now uniformly
cold, and the sun makes little
impression. May not this cold-
ness be explained by the fact, that
the snow, being a non conductor
of heat, cuts off a flow of the
external heat of the earth to the
upper incumbent atmosphere?

Deep
snow
effects
of }

That the heat of the earth is
greater than the winter Atmos-
phere is proved by the fluid
state of the water in our wells.
If there were no internal heat
in the earth, would not the
water become a mass of ice &
so continue forever?

Inter-
nal
heat
of the
Earth }

The proof of this internal heat
if not conclusive, are very strong
and not be shaken by a few
experiments supposed to mili-
tate against them.

opini-
on of
a French
writer
on. }

A French writer on Volcanoes
says "The hypothesis of central
trait and by consequence that
which imputes the origin of
volcanic matters to a fiery mass in the
interior of the globe, may be
placed in the rank of truths
most firmly established. In
proportion as observations
multiply, this hypothesis is
is confirmed, and the small
number of phenomena yet
involved in some obscurity,
will be explained more easi

ly than those ~~those~~ which
have been brought to light be
fore; and the systematic mind
which still resist the evidence,
will soon find themselves com
pelled to abandon their opini
ons, which have already fall
in into the most profound dis
credit.” Conversations on
Volcanoes &c par M.J. Girardin
quoted in Hitchcock’s Report on
the Geology of Mass. page 517.

Febby
25

It is now held by our 41
most distinguished Geologists that
the central part of the Earth
is a molten incandescent
mass, and that the volca
noes form the safety valves of
the vast furnaces.
Those who have not looked
at the phenomena of nature with
an extended eye, may think this
hypothesis too strange for belief;
and is not the existence of the
solar system & the Universe also
too strange to admit of belief?
Those who have examined
Geological phenomena perceive
a close connection between
a central fire and the ap
pearance of rocks on and
near the earth's surface?
some of which clearly indicate
an igneous origin. The existence
of volcanoes, Greenstone dykes,
the up heaving of islands from
the bottom of the ocean, and ~~occurrence~~ of earth
quakes, are believed to afford strong
evidence of the hypothesis of a
central fire: And I must confess
no strong reasons appear against
the opinion adapted by geologists
of the present day~

26

Thursday, Fair morn wind
W, and day the same, and cold
"A new and accurate Method of find
ing a ship's Position at Sea, by
Thomas H. Sumner." (2d edition) is no
ticed in the Boston news papers.

Sum
ner's
im
prove
ments
in nav
igation

When the Latitude, Longitude, and
apparent time at the ship, are
ascertained, one altitude of the sun
with the Greenwich time it is said,
determines 1st the true bearing of
the land, 2d the errors of Longitude
by chronometer, consequent to any
error of Latitude; and 3d The sun's
true azimuth. When two altitudes

Re
marks
on

are observed, and the elapsed time
noted, the true Latitude is projected;
and if the times be used by chro
nometer, the time Longitude is also
projected at the same operation.
The work is said to be commended
by various professors, naval offi
cers & shipmasters, as a remarkable
improvement in navigation. Yet
I am not certain that it contains any
thing new, not [] to the Nautical
astronomy of older books. In the

Feby
26

Anecdote
of a
Sea
Capt.

Difficulties
of navigation

[] of improvements of this kind,
and many others we see of scientific discoveries given by newspaper Editors, are often deserving of very little consideration.

Mr Sumner may have presented some simplifications in the calculations, but I doubt whether he has advanced any new principles in the science of navigation. In general ship masters follow prescribed rules without comprehending their rationale.

I once met a sea Capt. at Saratoga Springs who could not believe that the Altitude of a heavenly body might be taken by a sextant & artificial horizon, without allowing for dip. But one may be a good master of a ship without the mathematical & astronomical knowledge of a Bowditch~

Yet to navigate a ship furnished with all the requisite instruments, to ascertain her position at any time on a wide ocean, and the bearing & distance of the destined port, is no mean attainment. even in fair weather, and requires men of skill as well as genius. Since the invention of chronometers many of which run with surprising accuracy, the act has become less difficult; but unfortunately they are liable to errors. Another difficulty is cloudy & stormy weather which shut out a view of the heavenly bodies from observation, when dead reckoning must be resorted to, which is liable to great errors from a variety of causes.

Errors
of the
mag
netic
needle

That astonishing guide the magnetic needle is also liable to error. Ever since I have used it on land and observed how easily it is turned out of its direction, I have thought it probable that it must be effected by the local attraction of the iron of a ship on board of which it is used; and from the late treatises on navigation I find this attraction to be an admitted fact causing considerable errors: and

Feby 26 Still a good guide	And in a ship carrying iron guns and shot of the same metal, or loaded with cargoes of iron, that this magnetic guide can be relied on at all, seems to me extraordinary. But fortunately this guide still continues it, faithful ness to such a degree, as to ren- der it of the greatest impact and under its guidance ships traverse the widest oceans with as much certainty as our rail cars perform their land passages. In short the art of navigation combined with the construction of ships and their appendages, appear at first view to be efforts beyond the power, of the human mind; yet they show to what extent man may go by a due application of the established laws of nature. which hold an unerring course under the energy of their Cre- ator.	43
27 Re marks on the weath- er	<u>Friday</u> Morn fair, wind N.W. and very cold. P.M. the same weather During the winter thus far, we have had no rains of conse- quence. In former years the month of January seldom past off without one, or more, severe rains, which broke up our rivers and produced prodigious floods, often sweeping dams, bridges & every thing within their reach; but our storms have altered their inten- sity, direction, & frequency, which must be attributed to clearing of the country of its forests, although a <u>prairie</u> we cannot see the rationale. When North America shall be gen- erally cleared and cultivated	

Cli
mates }

like Europe, climates very different from the present, may prevail, and people be found adapted to them of various manners & customs. but it is hoped that an enlightened civilization will keep pace with their extension. But taking the eastern continent for a sample what well grounded hopes have we that America will ever contain a superior race of men? False notions of liberty may produce an inferior one.

Febry
28

Saturday Cloudy with some snow; wind N.W., day cloudy but no snow after the morning fall. This closes the Month and the weather has been uniformly cold; the snow now deep

March
1

Sunday. Fair morn, NE wind and day fair & cold.

Luna }
tic Hos }
pital }

Thirteenth Annual Report of the Trustees of the State Lunatic Hospital, with the Treasurers Report and that of the Superintendent, Dr. Samuel Woodard.

Its im }
port }
ance }

This is a pamphlet of 106 8 vo. pages, containing many table & useful matter in relation to the insane, committed to the Hospital and demonstrate the usefulness of the establishment. Many cases are noticed in which entire cures have been effected, and others ameliorated under the care of the superintendent, who appears well qualified for his arduous task.

Moons }
influ }
ence in }
diseases }

We were however a little surprised to find him inclining to the old notion of the moon's influence on diseases, which we had supposed had been exploded by men of science.

Suggest }
ed }

On page 78 we find a Table showing the state of the moon at the commencement of a paroxysm of excitement in 125 cases of Periodical Insanity, amounting in all to 875 paroxysms, Also the relation of the moon to 175 deaths which have occurred in the Hospital. How far Dr. Woodard is inclined to maintain this lunar influence does not fully appear.

He says: "Though I have not been able to discover any direct influence of the moon in the production of insanity, or in the occurrence of the paroxysms in periodical cases, it cannot be denied that there is such a thing as a regular periodicity with regard to the functions of the animal economy, and to certain diseases affecting the system." He adds "The

March
1

menstrual period is a lunar period; almost all fevers have weekly, or semi monthly tendencies to crisis, The most acute often terminate at the end of the first week, and the more protracted at the end of the second, third or fourth week. Epilepsy often occurs at nearly regular linear periods, and many of the friends of patients say, that this disease and the excitements of insanity occur most frequently at the new and full moon. If these coincidences were observed only by the ignorant and superstitious, they might pass unnoticed as too intimately connected with preconceived notions and partial examination of occurrences to establish and sustain what tradition has handed down to us; but men of the greatest science and closest observation, such as Mead Sydenham, Balfour, Orton, Allin, & Monson recognize such influence. It is at this time a subject of close philosophical investigation, which should be encouraged & examined rather than ridiculed and rejected. Dr Mead's Book on the influence of the sun and moon we have examined many years ago, and came to the conclusion that it was an ingenious investigation of the laws of gravity as they are connected with these heavenly bodies in the production of tides; but unfortunately it afforded no evidence of effects on diseases; and his hypothesis has generally been laid aside by scientific physicians since the Doctor's day. With the other authors cited we have not

45

been acquainted.

That some claiming to be men of science at this day, still adhere to the exploded notion is not strange but have for these claims rendered them men capable of judging on the subject admits of doubt.

At this time a sort of sickly diathesis seems to be diffused through our country, which leads to a belief in any thing having my story for its basis—such as phrenology mesmerism &c—differing essentially from

March
1

Fash
iona
ble
notion

Mr
Ara
go's
opin
ion
of

Re
marks

Litera
ary men
not
always
philos
ophers

the mathematical principles of natural philosophy which prevailed in the fore part of the last century. Speaking of the belief of the influence of Comets on the earth, M Arago a French astronomer, has the following apposite remarks, which I have before quoted, "If you will only listen in those circles which are called fashionable, to the long discourses of which the approaching comet is the theme, you may decide whether there is any room to congratulate ourselves upon the pretended diffusion of knowledge, which so many perfectionists are pleased to consider as the distinguishing feature of our age. For myself, I have long been cured of these illusions. Under the brilliant but superficial glass, with which the purely literary studies of our colleges cover all classes of society, we almost always find, to speak plainly, a profound ignorance of those beautiful phenomena those grand laws of nature, which are our best safeguard from prejudice"

These remarks I think will apply to our moon philosophers of the present day, and whether the old doctrines of Astrology are now to be received will be seen in our "progress of improvement."

That Dr. Woodard should aid in the revival of the exploded notion of the moon's influence in diseases, is to be regretted, since we shall always find among our "purely literary men", those who are ready to embrace occult theories, instead of the masculine views of solid philosophy. which often become disgusting

2

Town
meet
ing }

to students of pure literature.

Monday. Morn partially fair
wind N.E. & the day the same.

This is our annual meeting for
the choice of town officers &c.

An old practice while we were
a British Province, and when
honest industrious men were
the great men, and duly respect
ed.

Magnetism. In a late lecture
at Philadelphia, Professor Silliman
said

March 2		said. The properties of the <u>Compass</u> arose from the magnetic influence of the poles; that magnetic influ ence was produced by cur rents of electricity passing over the earth, subjected to the spiral influence of the sun's rays. Is there proof suffic ient to warrant this assertion The Professor's opinions and knowledge of the laws of na ture command respect.	47
Silli mans hints on Mag netism of the earth	}	Of magnetism, galvanism and even electricity we have yet much to learn, and the phi losoper will alway find stim ulents to to further investiga tion of the [] field of nature spread before him.	
3		<u>Tuesday</u> Fair morn wind N.E. the day fair	
Mors's Tele graph descrip tion of	}	Looking over a description of the <u>American Electro Magnetic Telegraph</u> by Alfred Vail a pamphlet of 24 pages. I find some difficult ty in the <u>latter references</u> to the arts. But the machine is truly in genous, yet I think too compli cated for extensive practical use. When the telegraph is in per fect order, and managed by skillful hands, intelli gence may be communicated with astonishing rapidity: But on long lines, say of 100 miles, will it not often be deranged from a variety of accidents, which cannot be avoided and become an uncertain conveyance? The success of the telegraph ap pears very doubtful.	
4		<u>Wednesday.</u> Morn fair wind SW and fair day. On the 27 th instant a petition	

Petition in our Senate

was presented in our state senate signed by 35 citizens of the Commonwealth, for the withdrawal of our state from the existing Union, and the formation of a new one composed of such states as will join her; or that she may form an independent government of her own. The petition sets forth the inequities, unconstitutional, & profligate

March
4.

for
discus
sion }

Re
marks
on }

manner in which Texas has been annexed to the Union by Congress; and proposes that our Senator & Representatives in that body, immediately return to their constituents for the purpose of forming the proposed independent government.

That a dissolution of the Union will ultimately take place is probable, but at this time the plan is premature; and we had better submit to some inroads on the constitution than to the evils of a dissipation.

True indeed, if the present scheme of admitting foreign countries into the Union, be [] in, we see not why Mexico may not be annexed when she shall consent and ask for such a union, in which case all the ties that have held the states, together may be dissolved by bringing in a people whose interests may be opposed to ours. The plea that Republican liberty may be enforced upon a people unprepared for it, is idle. If a dissolution of the Union takes place, it will not be a peaceable one, but attended with blood and carnage and such a project involves many questions of a novel character, and without precedents.

Let us then cling to Union until Congress shall evince a total disregard to the constitution and natural rights of the people, when the course we adopt in our separation from Great Britain may be necessary.

5

Thursday Morn broken clouds
wind NW. P.M generally fair.
Through the attention of
Mr James P Fogg of Rochester NY,

N York
agricul
tural
Reports
1841

I am favored with the perusal
of Transactions of the New York
State Agricultural Society &c. 8 Vol
8 vo pp. 671, with many plates
and cuts. The work is published
by the assembly in 1844, and
is the 3d of the series. It contains
much matter of importance.
The article on the Geological sur
vey of the state by Professor James
Hall, one of the Geologists, I found
to be highly gratifying. The plates
& cuts are elegant, embracing views
and organic remains, or objects
of

March
5

An
excel
lent
work

Re
marks
on the
state

of Palaeontology. From his report it appears that no fossil coal is to be found within the limits of the State, but iron ore in great abundance in the NE part. This article is a condensation of the Geological reports which have been, or are about to be, published. The work contains, also, Reports of the County societies, occasional addresses, and articles on distinctive insects, all of importance to the farmer and man of science.

N York contains a large portion of excellent land, especially the western section, and depends much on its ~~improvements in~~ Agriculture. Its wheat crop is invaluable & finds a facile route to market, by its grand canal & railroads. The growth of its towns and cities has been astonishingly rapid as well as its population. but do its improvements in morals keep pari passu⁷ with its commercial spirit?

Within the state are many valuable men, men of science and literature, yet its present democratic attitude renders the question at least, doubtful.

The exertions now making in the state to improve agriculture, on scientific principles, are commendable, but how far they will remove vulgar prejudices from the common people is doubtful.

These efforts are the work of Philosophers, but the people at large are averse from philosophical investigations & still cling to their old prejudices, which taught them that wielding the hoe sythe

49

⁷ "side by side"

axe &c constitute all that is
important & will still, as []
counteract improvement in
agriculture to the desired extent.

6

Friday. Morn fair but many
broken clouds and wind NE~
PM cloudy.

Snow remains deep & sleighing good

At this time, last year, the ground
was much clear from snow.

How different the aspect now!

Grim winter reigns with unabated sway
and cheering spring seems distant

No rains have occurred, as usual

	<u>Saturday.</u> Fair morn wind	50
March	NE. and air cold; Suns Declination 5°..18' South per almanac,	
7	at Greenwich mean noon~ The	
Congress	day continued fair, but with	
nothing	very little dissolution of the snow	
important	During the past week nothing very	
	important has been transacted in Congress. If determined to fight Great Britain they, it appears, mean to enter the contest wholly unprepared. If however this condition shall insure peace, long may it continue. At this age of the world a war between civilized nations is as disgraceful as a duel between two individuals, both evincing that notwithstanding the improvements made in arts, science, and government, man remains far below that elevation to which he may ascend by a due cultivation of the faculties betowed upon him by his Creator! and that he has made no greater progress in real knowledge, may be attributed to the counteracting influence of false systems which have been imposed upon him from his birth. True the mathematical sciences have been carried to words perfection; but in many other branches of knowledge his mind is still confined to small limits, and whether these will be enlarged by our improvements, to any great extent is a least doubtful.	
	"Then say not, man's imperfect, heav'n in fault; Say rather man's as perfect as he ought; his knowledge measured to his state & place, His time a moment, and a point his space." ⁸	
8	<u>Sunday.</u> Morn cloudy, wind SW with gentle fall of snow but soon	

⁸ Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*, Epistle 1.

became fair. P.M. generally cloudy
and cold

9

Monday Morn fair, wind W.
and a fair day succeeded.

A London paper of the 6th of December last, says, "In France the popular mind is constrained to be peaceful against its natural tendency, rather than kept so from

March
9

England
&
France }

51

from its wisdom, morality, and its advantage. They are ready to plunge into a war to-morrow, with any people of Europe and a war with England in particular would, we fear, be a popular measure in any ruler who should see in it a means of rising to glory. If America should make an appeal to arms to decide the right to a large but barren territory, which neither party has as yet thought worth possessing, [—] it would be less from any hope of contending with us successfully than with the probability of offering France an opportunity, too tempting to be resisted, of attacking her European rival, and that the opportunity would be readily seized we have little doubt.”

On what this opinion is founded we cannot say, but the writer may see more than appears to us. Is it true that France like a rumbling volcano is ready to explode and destroy the neighboring nations, and throw the world into confusion? And are these the fruits of refined civilization? The supposition is hardly admissible. What advantage would France derive from the destruction of England, a nation whose arts and sciences are akin to her own, and the happiness of both is promoted by a lasting peace and a good agreement. If France is such a nation as is represented by the writer, she is a nuisance in the world. What is the strong temptation which America might present to France in case of a war

between us and England? Is it the conquest of the British Provinces in America? Such a conquest being effected, and those provinces placed under the power of France so destitute of moral obligation would the United States be more secure than in the present condition of their provinces? But the wild democracy of the United States render them blind to their interest, and nothing short of the destruction of England will

March

9

Vain
hopes
of Uni
versal
Peace

Future
Histo
ry

Rise
& fall
of
nations

satisfy its rapacity. If then this spirit for war is formed in any powerful nation, what becomes of the flattering hopes & expectations of those who have predicted that universal peace was about to prevail, and the nations learn war no more. For that happy time all good men wish; but wise men see little indication of this glorious era for many years to come; and our future history may be as bloody and ferocious as that which has past. In vain do we look for universal peace until ambition and injustice shall be laid aside, and men adopt the principles of justice and right. And how far the world has advanced towards this condition is a question of importance.

By recurring to history we find that nations have been subjected to revolution; they have had their rise and fall at various periods, and this probably will continue to be the case. When a nation has become corrupt, sometimes the result of excessive refinements it soon loses its masculine virtues, declines, and ultimately ends its career of greatness~ If England & France in their high state of civilization are unable to maintain peace, what is the value of high attainments, and what of hope have we, that any degrees of improvement will banish war from the earth. The writer we have quoted may have expressed his fears

under misapprehension,
and we hope this is the fact
But if a hostile spirit such
as the writer describes actually
exists in France, the tranquility
of Europe cannot long remain
undisturbed, and she may
soon see a reiteration of the horrid
scenes that occurred under Na
polian Bonaparte.~

March
10

Ore
gon
debate

Tuesday Morn fair 53
wind N. and day very
clear

The Oregon debate continues in the Congress Senate, and the friends of peace favor a compromise; but a few war hawks are sharpening their bills & claws, for a pounce on the “whole territory” up to 54°..40’ of latitude. Mr Hannagan of Indiana, whose claws are ready for the pounce, and probably apprehensive that the President inclines to settle the boundary on the latitude of 49, recently said a speech “The President stood committed to 54°..40’. If he had deserted that position, he was an infamous man, and his fate would be inevitable disgrace. While the eye would hang on the page of his tory, he would be held as a traitor his damnation would be so deep that the hand of Reperation would never reach him, there would be no mercy for him from God, and he dare not ask forgiveness from []” This language is precisely what I had anticipated, should Mr Polk dare to take a course dictated by justice and duty. But does Mr Polk possess the nerve for such a course? When duty required opposition to his democrats we supposed he would vibrate between the two, but finally settle on the latter. He must not forget his dear friends who placed him in his chair, a war however remains to his country, he may deem less so to himself, then force. Should the “deep damnation” of his party turn upon him, he might sink

to his former obscurity. What a fall
But Mr Polk may learn that a
President who follows the path
of duty and holds the welfare
of his country paramount to the
design of wild democracy, is not
their man. An Allen or a Hanni
gan might be found more pliable
were either to occupy his place.
But those war hawks, we trust, will
ere long be [] of their wild
[] and seen in their []
[] [].
Mr Polk's present position is
pitiable.

March
10

Mr
Polks
posi
tion

Criti
cal

pitiable. Duty and the welfare of his country on the one hand, and subserviency to democracy on the other.

If pledged to the latter his course is fixed, but if his duty perforates his fate may, indeed, be “inevitable disgrace” in the views of his party and he deemed a traitor.

In the present state of public opinion a President, of an honest and independent mind, will find himself misplaced in the White House. Whether Mr. Polk will desert his party & become a “Traitor” is yet to be seen. His present disposition, it is believed, is favorable to a compromise with England, and this being perceived, irritates his War hawks, and they are ready to pounce upon him, should his duty to his country dictate his decision.” When infamous men bear sway, the post of Honor is a private station,” says one well acquainted with the corruptions of public opinion.

The prospects of a war with England we have thought, were dissipating, but if the President and his party insist on the Lat. of 54°..40’, war will probably occur, and clearly be chargeable to a party that has no regard to the welfare of the country. A war might cure their enthusiasm, but would be ruinous to the people.

But, say our wild liberty politicians we should conquer the British provinces in north America. Aye; and what advantage would that be to us? Not a cent! But during the operations against the provinces, what would be

Recol
lection
of the
War
of 1812

fate of our Sea port cities & towns?
We should not forget that during
the last war, the British conquered
that part of Maine lying east
of the Penobscot, and held it, with
but a small force; and Bla
densburg can tell us a sad sto
ry of the successful march of a few thousand
British troops to the City of Washing
ton. Were then the fault of our
Citizen soldiers or of those who plunged
us into war without preparation!

March	and without a justifiable	55
10	object. An examination of the territory of the United States and of the <u>peculiar</u> condition of Europe at the time, will explain the <u>cause</u> of the war.	
11	<u>Wednesday</u> . The morn fair and wind S. West, and day fair & clear.	
Lease of my lands }	This day leased my meadow lands to John M. Forbes, for one year from the 1 st of April next, he and his family to reside in my son's house, and board me for the term at 2 dollars per week, the amount to be taken from his note of 150 dollars given to my son Arthur, who is to pay all taxes assessed upon the lands. These changes of condition to which I have been subjected of late years, are rather annoying to my habits of repose, in my advanced age, I look around for old connections, but they are gone; and a new generation has arisen who know not <u>Joseph</u> , and old things are becoming obsolete, I hope for an improved race of man, but the prospects are not flattering. There may be a retrogradation, and a careful observer may perceive some indication of it. Many at the present day attempt to rise to fame without plodding through the old paths of science and literature: They are seated in <u>rail road cars</u> under a velocity of 20, 30 or more miles per hour, and yet, as if this were slow speed, they now think of <u>sending their thoughts</u> over the distance of hundreds of miles by an electro magnetic shock. Truly we are on rapid flight, but they may will at length find they have	
Re flec tions }		

limbs for walking and that
they are destitute of wings.

In these remarks it is not to my
design to retard the progress of use
ful discoveries & improvements, but
to caution men against wild spec
ulations, and not to attempt those
things that are beyond their capacity, but
to keep within their proper sphere.
The Poet has happily expressed the
caution in the following lines.

March
11

What if the foot, ordain'd the dust to tread,
Or hand to toil, aspir'd to be the head?
What if the head, the eye or ear repin'd
To serve more engines to the ruling mind?
Just as absurd to mourn the tasks or pains
The great directing mind of all ordains.⁹

12

Perusal of
General
Oliver's
Report
on the
militia

Thursday Morn fair wind SW
many clouds during the day.

I have at length obtained Adjutant Gen. Oliver's report on the militia of Massachusetts, and given it careful perusal. It evinces considerable knowledge of military science, by which he is able to point out the frailties practiced at our militia reviews. The more he studies the subject, the more he will perceive of the imperfection of our militia system. The general difficulty is the want of skillful officers and this cannot be remedied until there is more encouragement to study the art and science of war. A militia system, I think, might be adopted which would be respectable; but since we rely on Congress for a plan for the states we hear little from papers of seeing one embracing the proper principles; for very few in that body are judges of military operation, or the essential elements of war. The democratic spirit which now reigns, is totally averse to the restraints necessary to form soldiers. To subject men to subordination and implicit obedience to orders is contrary to their notions of equality and republican liberties. General Oliver's views in general strike me as judicious, and if read by militia officers, may cure them of some of their fool

Want
of good
officers

⁹ From Alexander Pope's *Essay on Man*, Epistle 1.

ish ceremonies at reviews.

No part of the report has been read with more satisfaction than that which notices the extravagant expenses of some of the past companies at their training days.

“I recollect at this moment (says the General) a late newspaper announcement of a parade of one or more corps, in which it was set forth that the members would breakfast at one public house, dine at another, and sup at a third, and that the day would be

March
12

57

spent in cheerful feasting
on fat things.” To this might
have been added, a Brass band
will attend the parade, at the
expense of the corps. He remarks
“a fine band, a showy uniform
and an agreeable entertain
ment ought never to be allowed
to usurp the place of thorough
practical [], and of the right
devotion to the right objects of a
military association. Expensive
dress, expensive parades, costly
festivities and might of drill,
are ruinous to a soldering, and
have proved a profuse source
of mischief to many of our best
corps.” This hint will apply
fancially, to the fashionable, com
panies of our Chief City, who mis
take show and music for dis
cipline. When these men shall
refresh themselves from the cold
pork of their haversack, quench
their thirst from the running brook
and encamp at night in brush
shelters, constructed in the roads
on the [] of the occasion, they
will exhibit some theory of the
duties of the real soldier.
The corps in the interior of the
state are less extravagant; but
they too often attempt to ape
the show of these fashionables
If General Oliver can remove
the puerile extravagances, and in
troduce the soldiers habits he
will improve the militia. But
we think his task is a difficult one
so long as the present false no
tions prevail respecting military
discipline. See my previous remarks
on this Report, pages 34 & 38~
Friday. Morn cloudy wind SW.
but sun out before noon. the
day generally cloudy, some fog

13

Our General Court still in session
and full of small business~
The snow is still pretty deep, and
not a patch of earth is noticed on
the slope of hills facing the afternoon
sun. This quantity of snow
is uncommon so late in
the season.

14

Saturday Morn cloudy and
foggy, wind NW., with a moder
ate fall of rain; the []
cloudy with occasional fog. Riv
er risen & ice broken up.

March
14

Our
Rail
Road }

slow
pro
gress
of }

Un
wise
loca
tion
of }

Re
marks }

Troy
route }

Our Rail Road from Northampton to Greenfield. During the winter a few workers have been employed on the route east of our village, but little progress has been made. In this part, the location appears most singular, crossing many deep ravines which might have avoided by a route crossing our home lots near the foot of the eastern hills; and why the location is chosen across these ravines is not easily explained. There seems to be an influence some where, which, to say the least, partakes of the character of obstinacy, and not friendly to our village or the people of Wappin, & both are disappointed in their expectations. Perhaps however the managers of the road may be able to show satisfactory reasons for this location, but at present we see none.

The spirit for railroads still continues in all parts of the country, and a cross road is now proposed from Grounds on Miller river through Montague, Sunderland and across the Connecticut to the village of Bloody Brook, and the idea is still held up of constructing another up Deerfield river and over Hoosac Mountain to Troy, about as probable a project as that of constructing a road to the moon. The people seem to have forgotten that at best 20 thousand dollars per mile is a sum beyond their capacity, and that the farmer is to live by industrious labor on his farm. A rail road can not be supported unless it follows the great arteries of trade, and

leads to some great mart: and
I will venture to predict, that
very few cross rail roads will be
constructed and maintained~
Whether the Fitchburg road
will be extended across the hills &
down miller's river to Grouts
& thence through Northfield to
Brattleborough, admits of doubt;
the artery from Boston to
Lake Champlain being a more
northerly route.

This attempt to multiply
rail roads will at length show
us our folly.

15

Sunday. Morn fair, wind SW
P.M. Generally cloudy—Snow
wastes slowly. clear at night.

March	A drove of about 60 horses	59
15	past southerly through our street in the forenoon, supposed for the Hartford market.	
a drove ve of horses	Our orthodox people consider this as an infringement of the Sunday laws; but those of more enlightened views, see no such infringement when a Sunday occurs during the march of such a drove to market. Religion presents no obstructions to business each tends to the welfare of community, and the market for horses and cattle is important to the farmer, as well as unobstructed roads for their transits~ Sunday laws should protect all in their religious modes of worship, provided they are not immoral, and here they should stop. The institution of Sunday, as a day of rest and reflection, is useful among civilized people, but the laws should not interfere with necessary business; and of the sacredness of the day, men should be at liberty to judge for themselves. But it is said the day was regarded by the Jews as a divine institution; and so were many of their rites & ceremonies which are now entirely laid aside. Where the day is established <u>by law</u> it becomes a political institution & I think, a useful one, under due regulations~	
Sunday laws		
16	<u>Monday</u> Cloudy morn Wind N.E. followed by a cloudy day, & NW wind P.M.; Slow dissolution of the snow. from want of the sun's rays.	
17	<u>Tuesday</u> . Morn partially fair, wind N.W.; the day generally fair. Patches of ground appear on the slope of hills, and on the south	

State
of the
snow }

side of buildings. The slow dissolution of snow is a favorable circumstance: Were deep snow to dissolve suddenly by warm clear suns, or heavy rains, terrible floods would occur, and great destruction of dams, mills, bridges &c be the consequence. The strongest works of art are scarcely sufficient to stand against a rapid Ice flood. Even mossy rocks adhering to the ice are sometimes carried down rivers & deposited on land which is thawed. In this case the weight of the rock is [] by the weight of an equal bulk of the water. During

March 17		During the winter, I have generally kept in my room, furnished with an open iron stove, brought in my fuel kindled my fire in the morning & have suffered little from cold air.
My em ploy ment	}	The greatest inconvenience met with, has been the <u>long nights</u> , in which sleep was interrupted, and I looked impatiently for the lingering twilight. But like old <u>Crothar</u> , in Ossian, my arm is feeble, my step is unequal and I have the cold of years”
18		<u>Wednesday</u> . Morn fair, wind N. and a fair day followed, W & NE
A New fami ly with us	}	Mr. Forbes and his family a wife & two small boys, came to reside at our house, to carry on our agricultural affairs for the ensuing year. I hope the connexion will be harmonious and agreeable to the parties: Nothing shall be wanting on my part to render it so. Friendly feelings & good intentions seldom fail of harmonious intercourse.
19		<u>Thursday</u> . Fair morn, wind N.E. a fine clear day.
Mr Hud son’s speech	}	Mr Ashman sends me the speech of M Charles Hudson of Mass. delivered in Congress Feby 26 last, on the Wheat trade. The speech evinces much research into the subject, and endeavors to show that a repeal of the corn laws of England, will be of no advantage to us, as the countries bordering on the Baltic Mediterranean will furnish wheat to England at a lower rate than we can, from the low price of labor in those countries. During the years 1841, ‘42 and ’43, he states, that 18.383.465 bushels of wheat were exported from Russia, and 7.949,070 from Germany to Great Britain; and
On the wheat trade	}	
Facts stated	}	

during the same years, from her
N. American provinces 6,853,548
and only 3,053,278 from the
U.States~ I was not aware
of this extensive production
of wheat in Europe.
Our principal trade with England
in the article of wheat, Mr Hud
son says, has been through Cana
da; For the last 7 years we have
sent into Canada 12,586,892 bushels
while by our direct trade, only 7,764,588
The speech is worthy of the attention
of the American politician.

March 19		61
The contrast	}	<p>When we compare the good sense displayed in the speech of Mr. Hudson, with the wild ravings and howlings heard in the senate, from an other & a Hannegan, what a contrast we perceive! The latter appear exactly fitted to rouse the passions of <u>boys</u> who are as totally uninformed on the principles of government, as they are of the philosophy of Newton. These disturbances of the peace of the country, may ride on a whirlwind, but they are said to sink in a clam. Their efforts to involve us in a war with Great Britain will probably prove abortive, and President Polk will not escape their vituperative, if he consents to an amicable settlement of the Oregon boundary. The <u>object</u> of these western vociferate is war with Great Britain, and the boundary a <u>convenient pretence</u>: their disguise is dropping off.</p>
Objects of de macracy	}	<p>Friday. Fair morn, wind N. and a fine clear day</p>
20		
New Hamp shire elec tion	}	<p>By the return of the election of state officers in N. Hampshire, it appears that the people are about to rid themselves of the misrule of democracy, and to assume a respectable standing in the New-England family. In a state embracing so many respectable men as that of N Hampshire, this misrule ought not to have occurred. This return to rational republicanism will relieve her from the imputation that her people, in the interior, were not sufficiently informed for freeman, but was under the controul of of a few demagogues who "fattened on the spoils." It is now</p>

hoped she will correct his illegal
laws in relation to the election of
her members of Congress, as well
as others depriving the people of their
rights. When public opinion runs
wild, the people if well informed,
will correct the procedure at the
ballot boxes. Let Maine clear off
her woods and cultivate her soil,
and she will also, become a member
of the New England family. Were the demo
cratic papers to give up their delusions & false
hoods, the people could be happy.

	<u>Saturday</u> . Morn fair, wind NW	62
March 21	many thin clouds, but mostly fair.	
Suns place }	The sun's apparent place is now in <u>Aries</u> and it commences North declination and Northern amplitude. Many of our Almanacs give the Greenwich time, which	
N De clima tion }	requires some variation for our meridian, about h. 4, m. 50 West, according to the best observations.	
Com ets in sight }	<u>Two Comets</u> are said to have been seen at our Cambridge observatory, and their planets determined by Mr Bond. Some of these bodies probably pass by us unseen, and what are their uses in the economy of nature, we know not, but we suppose their revolution in their orbits are regular, though some of our astronomers of late, who hold to an <u>universal ether</u> , say they are thereby retarded in their orbits.	
Their trials }	One of the most unaccountable phenomena attending these bodies is the enormous trains of millions of miles; and perhaps we shall never be able to explain them.	
Peri ods }	If these trains consist of gravitating matter, why are they not drawn to the planets by attraction, when they approach them? And this may be the case, though not perceived by us.	
	The periodic revolution of very few comets are determined, and their number is unknown.	
	Our solar system to which we suppose the comets belong, is of a small extent compared with that of the universe. Where, we ask, have come all the beautiful regulation we observe? "Hence science leaves us, but only to con	

clude from other grounds, that
there is a First Cause to which
all others are secondary & ministrative. a primitive almighty will
of which these laws are merely the
mandates. That great Being, who
shall say where is his dwelling place or what
his history! Man pauses breathless at the
certain plateau of a subject so much above
his finite faculties, and only can conclude and adore.” Vestiges of Natural History
page 10.

March
21

Con }
gress }

During the past week the war
whoop of the western Sena-
tors in Congress, has been less
loud than for some time
preceeding. They probably
find that the people in the
eastern states are not to be roused
by their savage cry, nor disposed
to seize the tomahawk & scalping
knife and wield them against
fellow men, to gratify their canni-
bal appetites of these western
blood hounds who would fight without a
cause. By a prudent course, the
wiser part of the Senate, will allay
the rank spirit, and preserve
the peace of our country. The only
difficulty is for Mr. Polk to pa-
cify the rapacity of his dear
friends, who already appear
willing to sink him to deep damnation
where the hand of resurrections
will not find him.: Perhaps
Mr. Polk has not lost all sense
of duty to his country, and
may at length learn into what
hand he has fallen. If while he
was candidate for his present place
he pledged himself to the war
measures of his party, he should
recollect that such a pledge is
not paramount to his duty as
President of the United States.
His position is critical: the eyes
of his party are upon him, and
the least relaxation of the war
spirit would increase the howl
of his western packs~

22

Sunday Fair morn, wind N
and fine clear day. Various
families of birds are now seen.
Where was the place of their hiberna-
tion? This is a curious subject of in-
quiry. At the approach of winter
most of the winged animals mi-
grate to the south, probably so far

as too keep nearly the summer temperature, where they can find food. Is not this emigration confined to the insectivorous birds?

Catholic
worship

The Irish laborers on the Railroad held a meeting this day in our town house where the Catholics services were performed by one of the Clergymen of that order, I believe for the first time. Thus in the

March
22

Re
marks
on }

United States where there is no 64
established religion, all sects will be
formed; and since men in general
take up their religion from accidental
circumstances, rather than from invest
igation, perhaps in forming our opin
ions of them, their moral effects
on community, is the best crite
rion. The Catholic system, how
ever, appears not well fitted to
a republic, and moreover it his
tory is handed down to us in
repulsive colors; but among a
well informed people, it is not like
ly to be adopted to any great ex
tent: yet we find schemes among
us equally absurd, and ~~and~~ in
consistent with the attributes of
a benevolent Creator.
When the calm philosopher takes
a view of the various schemes of
religion which have prevailed []
the ancient, and indeed, in the modern
world, he regrets the imbecility
of the human mind, and the
misuse of the faculties, when un
aided by the lights of pure science.
In the wrangling about fair
rites & supposed duties of religion
he finds that the shadow is
often mistaken for the substance,
and that bigontry & fanaticism
are fruitful sources of error
and confusion. In a country
where scientific knowledge is not
diffused among the people, these
perturbations are found to
prevail to great extent, &
if aided by a bigoted clergy,
become the worst of evils: Empty
forms and ceremonies are sub
stituted for moral practices, and
religion becomes a []
divested of its essentials which
are defined by St. James “a ser
vant of God” (Chap 1 Verse 27th)

Pure religion and undefiled
before God and the Father
is this, To visit the fatherless
and widows in their affliction
and to keep himself unspotted
from the world.” Our
Fanatics seem to have lost
sight of this definition of pure
religion and to have attempted
to introduce in its place, a jar
gen of faith & mystery as []
ing as that of the koran of Muhamet

March
23

Great
Battle
in India

Monday Fair morn 65
with wind at NE; the day
fair, but many clouds. SW wind at night
By the arrival of the steam ship
Hibernia at Boston, on the 19th instant
we hear London & Liverpool
intelligence to the 4th instant, the
day of sailing. Two great Battle has
been fought in India between the
British forces and the Sikh army
which had invaded the British
territory, in which about 30,000 men
were killed & wounded including both sides,
and the Sikhs defeated Loss of the British
and native troops 3300. The Sikh
army, said to have been 80,000 men,
with 150 pieces of cannon & the British
and native troops about 20,000 in
the battle~ At home the British Government
is preparing for War; the army to
be increased 10,000 men: Should a
war with us occur, she will be
prepared for it~ Oh! Horrida Bella!
When wilt their cause thy de
struction!

Note}-

Note For a brief sketch of the
Sikhs See Morse's Geography
Vol. 2 page 599.
The Sikhs are represented to be a
warlike people, and able to bring 100,000
cavalry into the field, and by those
[] with military oper
ations, they are supposed, to be dis
ciplined. This is a mistake as is evi
dent from the result of the battle,
which has been detailed in the let
ter of the British Commander, Sir
Hugh Gough, to the Governor General
of India, dated December 19-22d 1845.
Twenty thousand British & native
troops beat and dispersed 86,000
of their enemy & about 30,000 of which
were Cavalry. Obviously unfit for
battle with disciplined troops~
Probably the Sikh discipline is simi
lar to that of our militia, who re

ly on show, numbers and native
bravery~ In the battle alluded
to, military judges were [] that
the Sikh Cavalry were too numer
ous and their artillery too heavy.
Tuesday Cloudy morn, wind SW
and day continued cloudy.
Snow is now much wasted
and is seen in patches only.
The 2 battles mentioned in my
yesterday's notices, took place
at Moockkee & Ferozeshah in
the Penjab¹⁰ territory, on the five
branches of the Indus, east of the
name river; The 1st on the 18th
and the 2d on the 21st & 22 of Decem
ber. In the 1st the Sikhs had no
field works & the battle continued some
time

¹⁰ The battles of Mudki and Ferozeshah in the Punjab

time by star light when the Sikhs retreated; 66

March 24

The late Battles } in the second they occupied an entrenched parallelogram, of about one mile, and half that space in width, with upwards of 100 guns, more than 40 of which were of battering caliber. The British forces swept the field and captured 73 pieces of cannon, their enemy fleeing in various directions, & in great confusion “This camp, (says the British Commander) is the scene of the most awful carnage, and they have abandoned large stores of grain, camp equipment and ammunition.”

Carriage of } These two victories furnish striking proofs of the imbecility of raw troops when brought to oppose regular veterans in a field of battle; and it is a question whether any militia force we might bring into the field would contend successfully in battle against 20 or 30 thousand regulars, furnished with all the measures of war & led by a skillful commander.

25

Mr Calhoun Speech } Wednesday Cloudy morn with rain which also fell last night; the wind NE Rain continued moderate through the day.

His enlightened views } In the United States Senate the Oregon bill, as it came from the House, makes slow progress. Mr Calhoun of S. Carolina has recently delivered a powerful speech against the war spirit so rife in some of our Western States: his popularity at the south, gives him more influence in that section, favorable to peace. Nothing of the base & vulgar prejudices of our demagogues against Great Britain is perceived in the Speech: on the contrary Mr Calhoun holds that her welfare is connected with ours, and that her downfall

Re
marks
on

would be the greatest misfortune that could happen. Such sentiments are noble & evinces an enlarged mind, divested of the childish prejudices of a faction of his brethren of the Senate who snuff piracy and robbery in the British Government, and whose motto is Delinda est Carthago! These ephemera have lived their day, and their buzz no longer disturbs the repose of the peaceful community
and

March
25

No
cause
for
war }

And this counterfeit pa 67

triotism is now known by
honest discerning men who
prefer their peaceful firesides
to the relentless ravages of war.
waged for a paltry object
without a possibility of one
advantage to our country. Let
us then, repudiate the hostile spir
it and continue the arts of
peace, and within a few years
we may become a great and
happy nation, worthy of the
dignity of rational beings.

26

Thursday Cloudy morn &
wind N. and moderate rain,
the day continued about the
same. The weather mild; the
roads muddy~
Our General Court is still in ses
sion ~~and~~ engaged in the affairs
of the State; and it is to be regretted
that such protracted sitting is found
necessary. By a different mode
of performing the business, I think
it might be very much shorten
ed. The practice of submitting []
petitions to Committees, retards the
business, and a majority of the
members in the mean time, are un
employed, and I think I say
more than half of their time is
lost to the public. In fact, under
the present system, the Committee
enact the laws, and a great por
tion of the members know little
about them, unless it be those
immediately concerned. A more
correct mode of doing the busi
ness is that which [] to find
more employment for the mem
bers, and less for the committees.

27

Wild
Geese }

Friday. Morn cloudy with fog
and W. wind but soon clear.
Flocks of Geese, on their northerly
course, were seen yesterday. These

animals need no railways nor tel
egraphs to aid them in their flights.
“Who bid the stork Columbus, like explore
Heav’ns not his own & worlds unknown before
Who calls the council, states the certain day
Who forms the phalange & who points the way?”¹¹
We say instinct! But what
is that but a name we cannot
comprehend?
“Then say not man’s imperfect heaven in fault;
Say rather man’s as perfect as he ought;
His knowledge measured to his state & place
His time a moment and a point his space”¹²

¹¹ Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*, Epistle 3

¹² Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*, Epistle 1

	<u>Saturday</u> Fair morn, wind 68
March 28	S.W. afternoon generally cloudy, the wind veering to the SW; the snow nearly gone.
29	<u>Sunday</u> Morn partially cloudy, wind W. (variable) the day fair with many broken clouds
30	<u>Monday.</u> Morn fair, but many clouds, wind NW. PM fair
new mes sage of the Presi dent }	In a message to Congress from President Polk fo the 24 th instant he recommends preparation for war. This may be necessary to silence his party who begin to eye him with distrust.
Propos ing an in crease of Army & na vy }	If a war with Great Britain be the object what short of the raising of a standing army can be resorted to? An increase of our naval force would be of no avail unless we rendered it superior to that of the British
Re marks on }	Enlistments for an army in a country like ours, where the wages of the soldier are so far below those of the laborers, would be very slow, and our <u>republi cans</u> would not readily submit to the subordination requisite in a regular army. Our cities might furnish a portion of recruits, but the interior of country very few. War then is not congenial to our condition, and a <u>French conscription</u> would not raise men in a free re public where all may have access to the <u>ballot boxes</u> . Give us <u>peace</u> , & we shall prosper
31	<u>ware</u> and prosperity ends~ <u>Tuesday</u> Fair morn wind NW and day fair & rather cold. <u>This day</u> closes our winter months and snow is now seen only in small patches out of the reach of the Sun's rays. The winter has been

long, steady and not very severe.
Our first snow came on the
30th of November & 1st of Decem
ber last & covered the ground about
3 inches and sleighing continued to
about the middle of March, pretty good,
The winter was remarkable for
its absence of rains.
See Continuation of No. 20 in an
unbound Book, beginning with
April 1, 1846: page 69.